

Serial No.: 10/696,576

F. Henneicke

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Amendments to the Drawings:

Please approve the changes to the drawings, which include the amended designation of sectional lines to Roman numerals in Figures 1a, 1b, 2a, 3a, 4a, 4b, 5a, and 5b, as required by the Examiner and as shown in red in the annotated marked-up copy on the substituted figures attached to the concurrently filed Proposed Drawing Corrections.

REMARKS

The indication of allowability of claims 1-6 is noted with appreciation.

The specification has been amended in several locations per the Examiner's request. Particularly, section headers have been entered where appropriate and the abstract has been amended to omit the reference to Figure 5a and no longer exceeds 150 words. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct the informalities raised by the Examiner. Claims 1-6 have been revised to delete the reference numerals and comport with U.S. patent practice. No new matter has been introduced.

Formal drawings are being submitted concurrently herewith. The formal drawings include the correction of sectional line designations from alphanumeric symbols to Roman numerals.

Further, Figure 1bII has been added to illustrate coupling an upper supporting pipe with a lower filter pipe, as discussed at page 6, lines 21-31, in the specification. Please note that the Applicant does not claim either an upper supporting pipe or a lower filter pipe. The sealing is the focus of the claims as opposed to the pipes. The additions made with Figure 1bII only show how the claimed sealing system couples two pipes of different diameters as was discussed in the application on page 6, at line 21. Accordingly, no new matter is being submitted herewith.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael E. Whitham', written over a horizontal line.

Michael E. Whitham

Reg. No. 32,635

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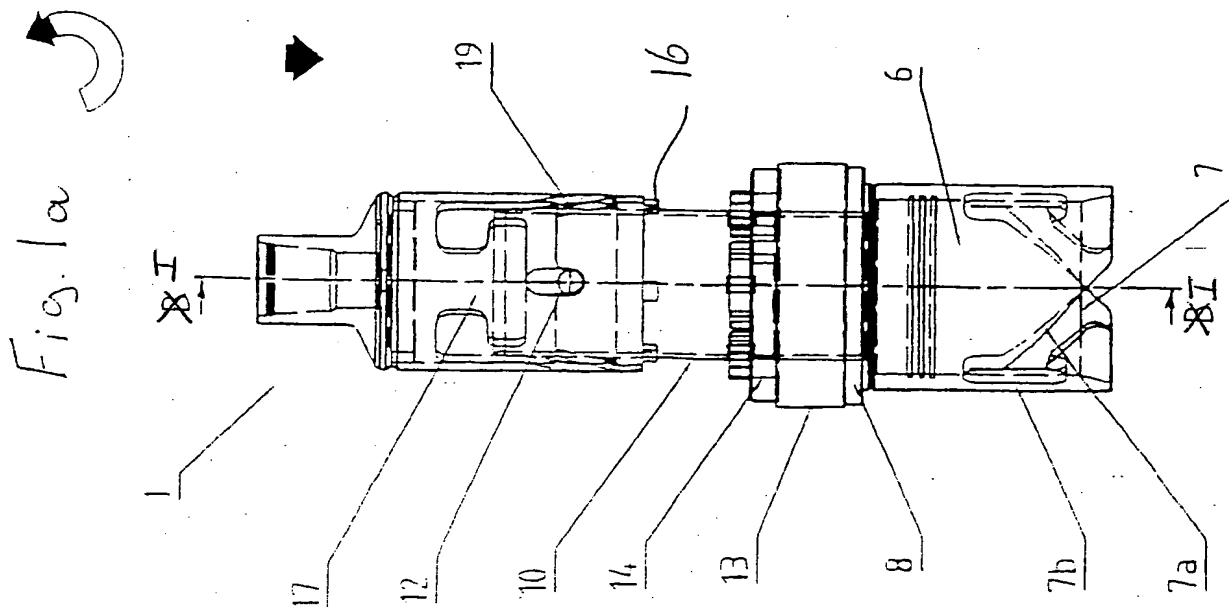
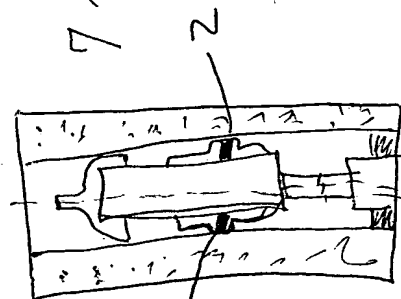
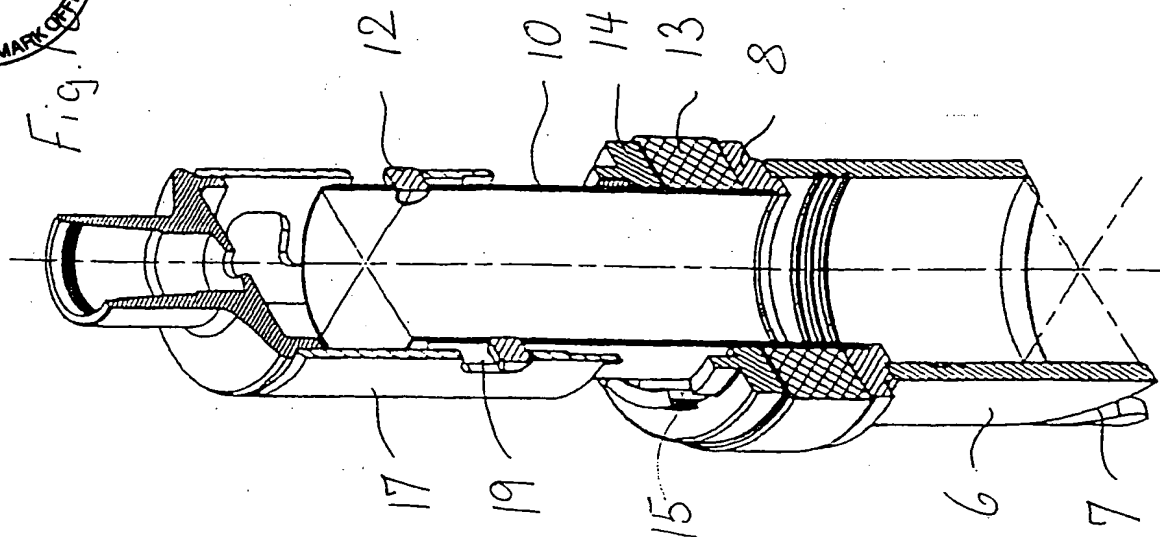
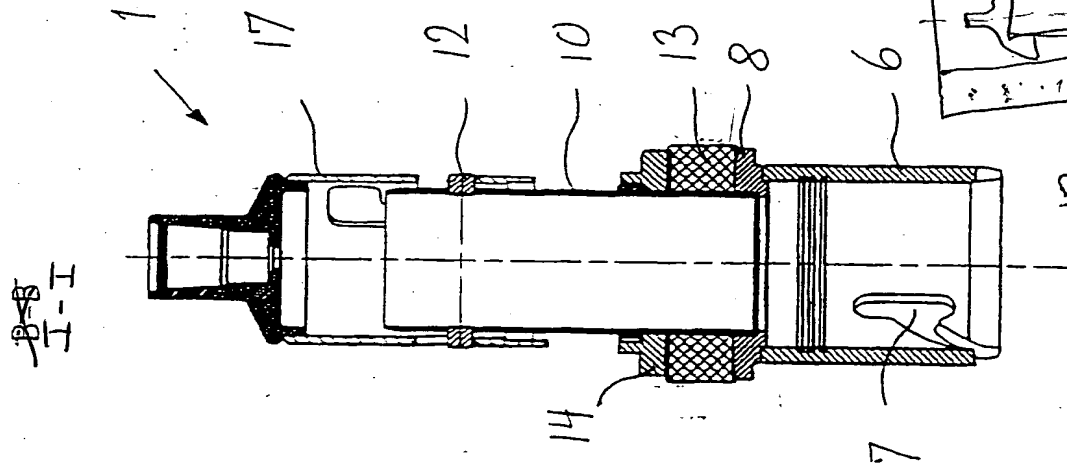


Fig. 1bI



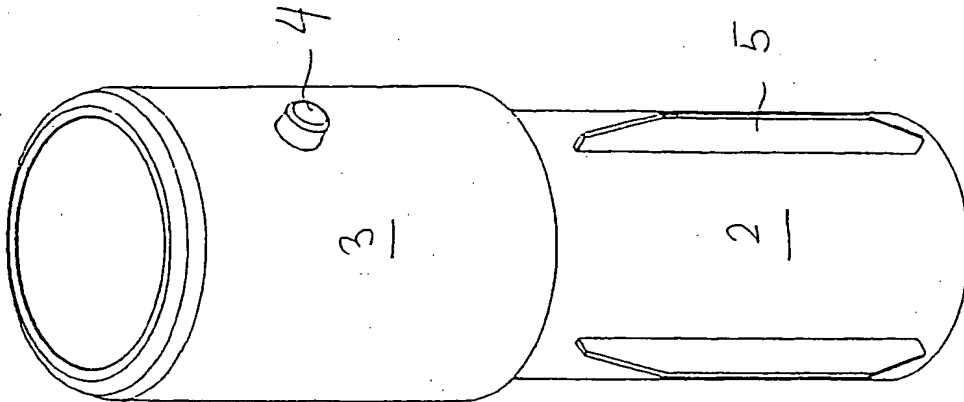
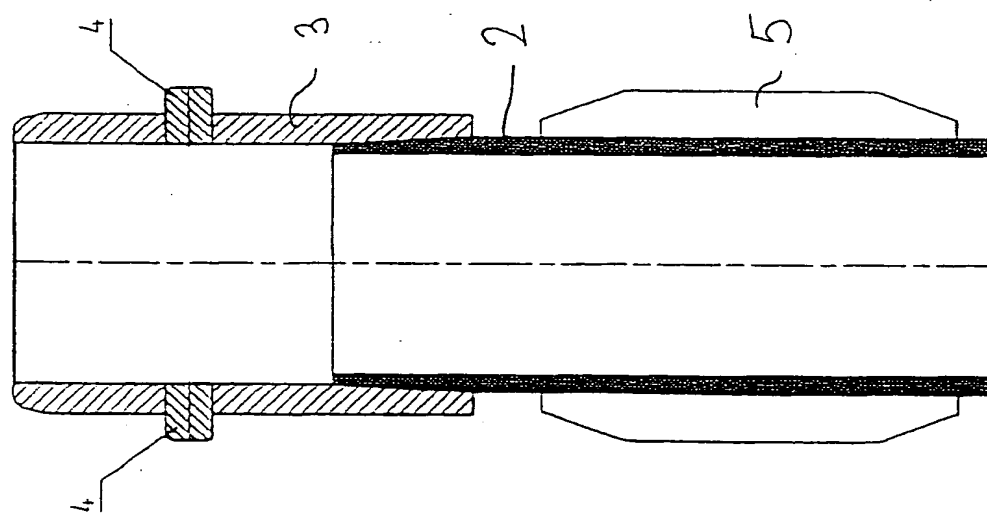


Fig. 2c



~~II-II~~ Fig. 2b

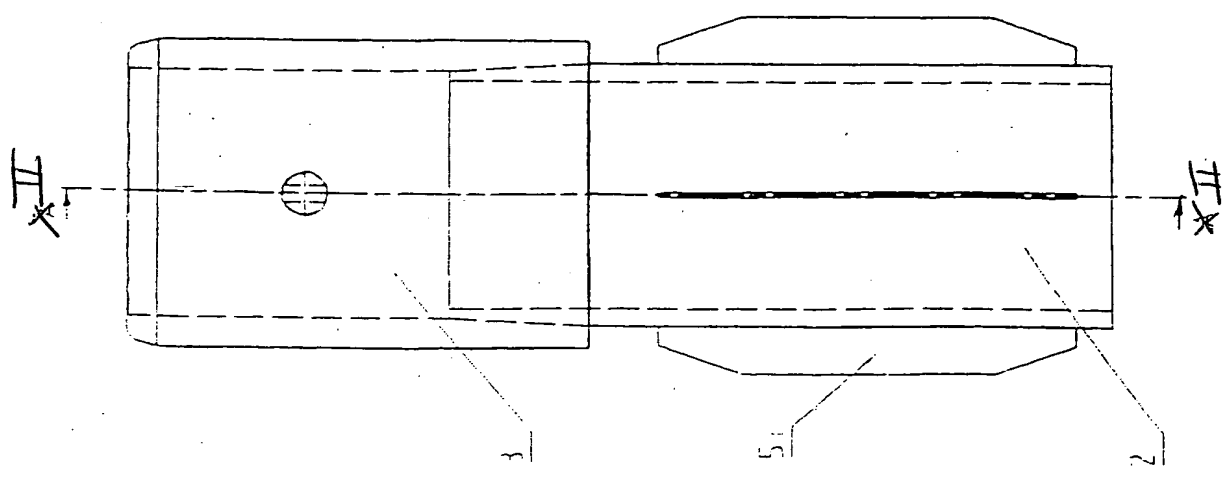
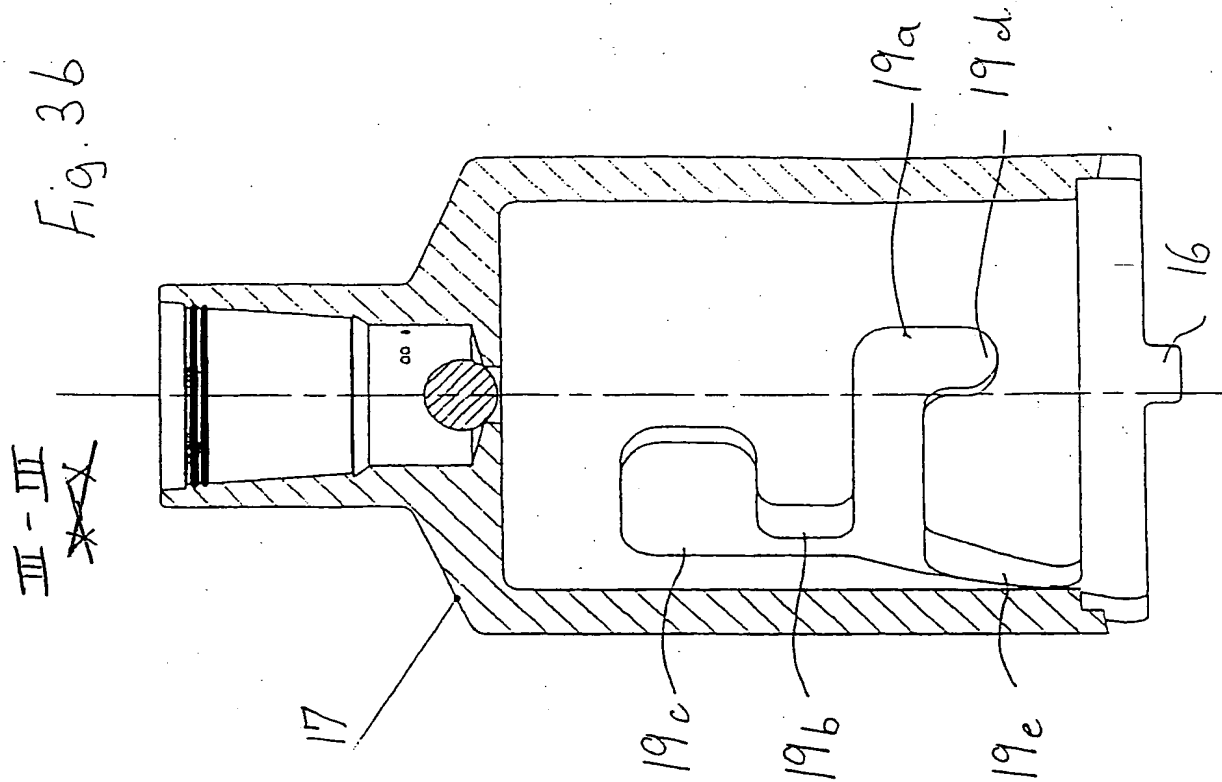
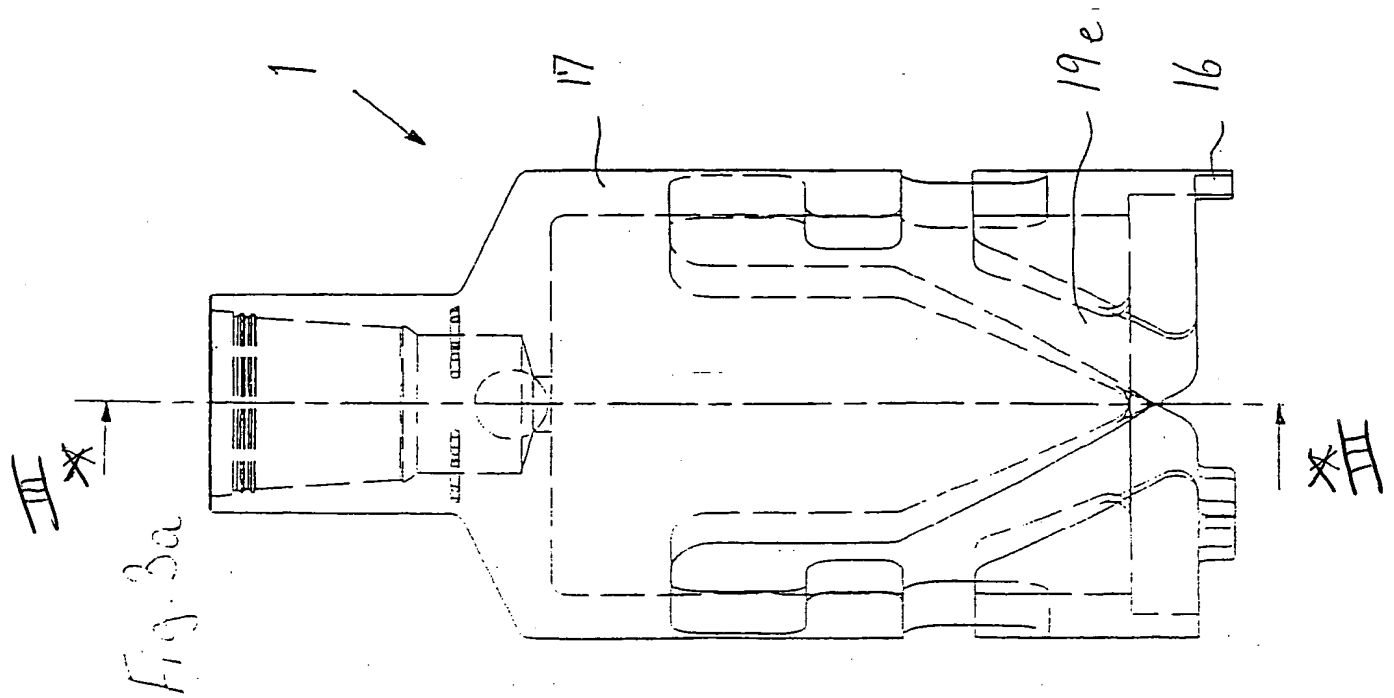


Fig. 2a



Annotated Marked-Up Drawings

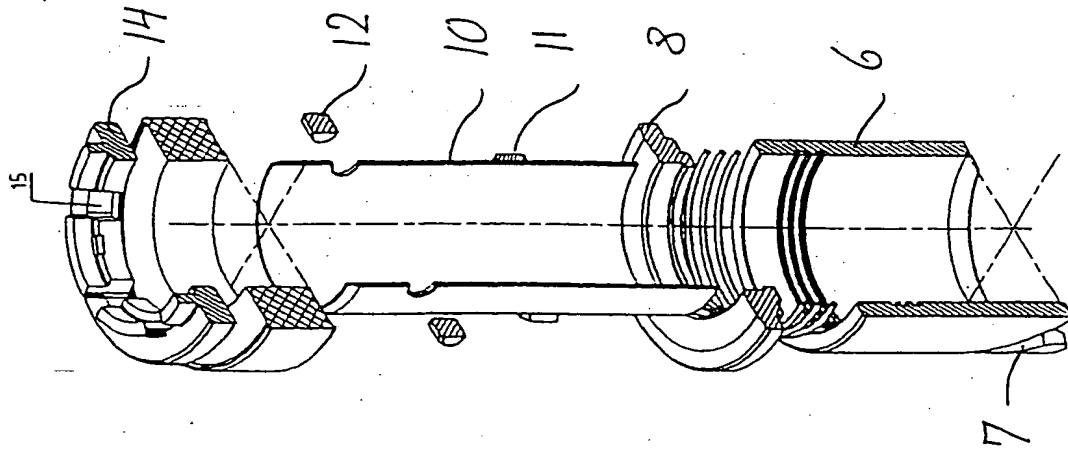
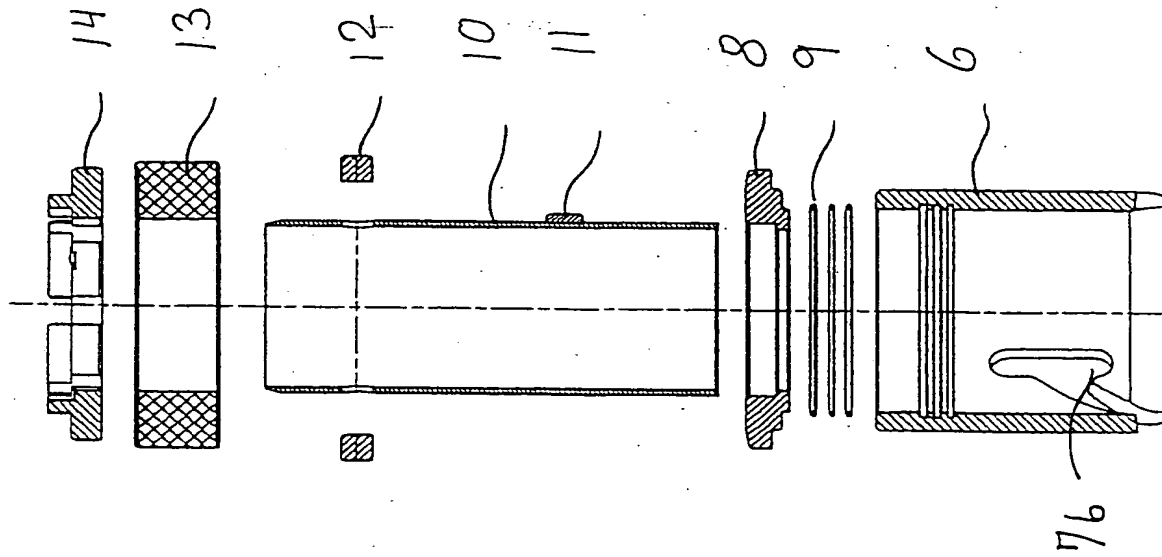


Fig. 4c



~~IV-IV~~ Fig. 4b

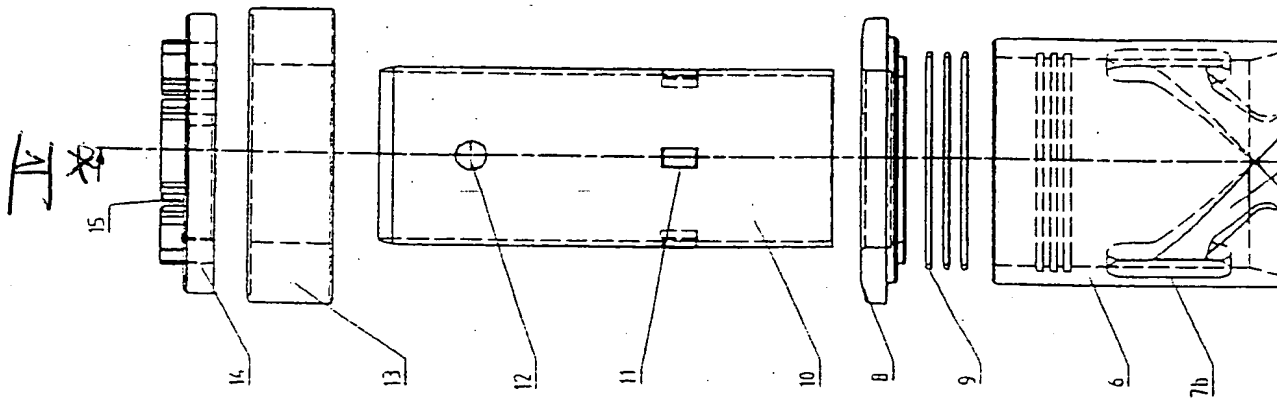


Fig 4a

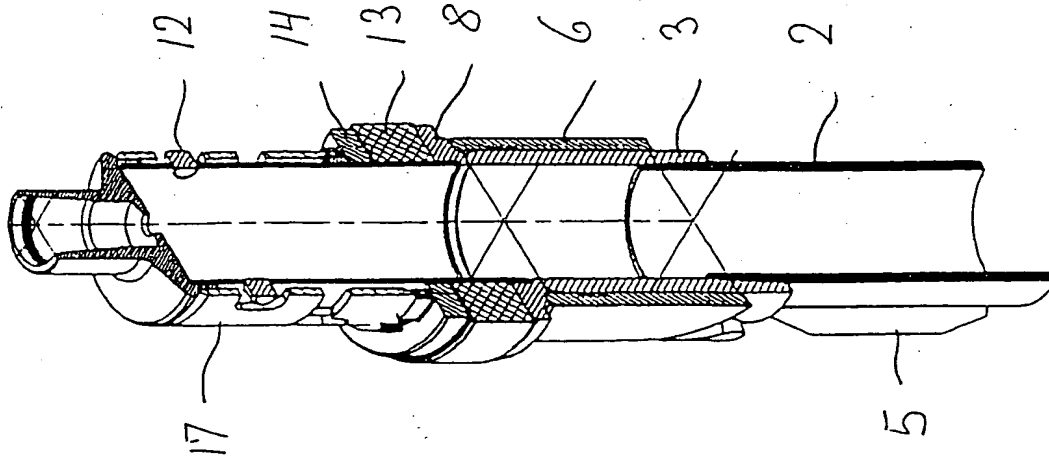


Fig. 5c

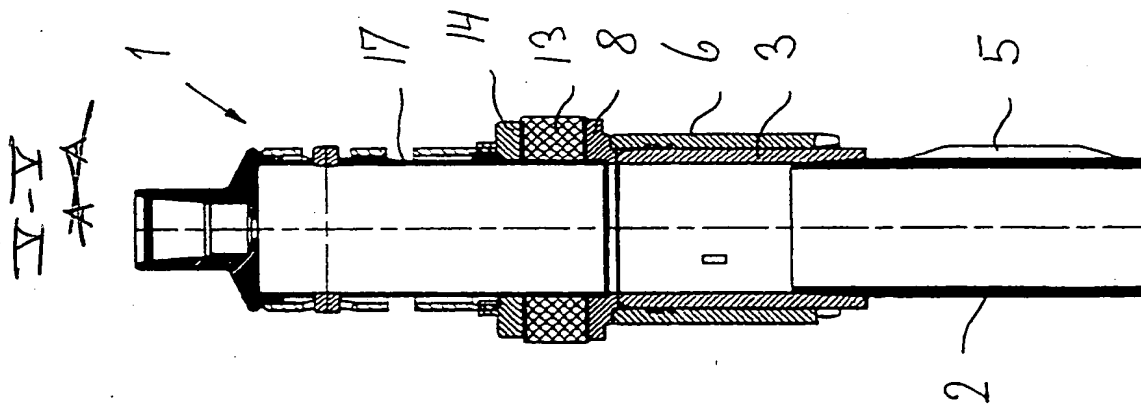


Fig. 5b

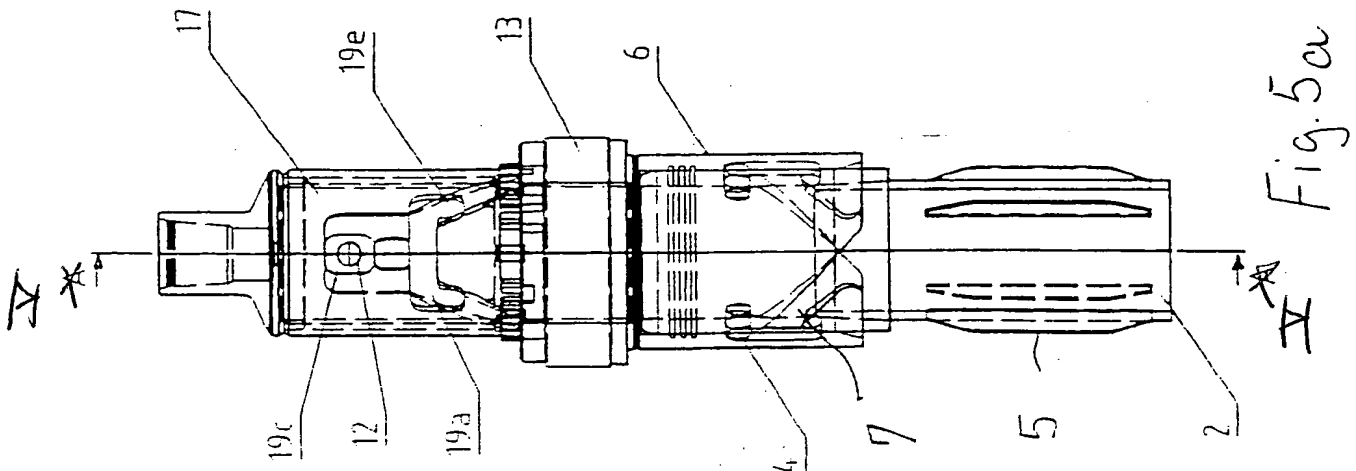


Fig. 5a

Fig. 6c

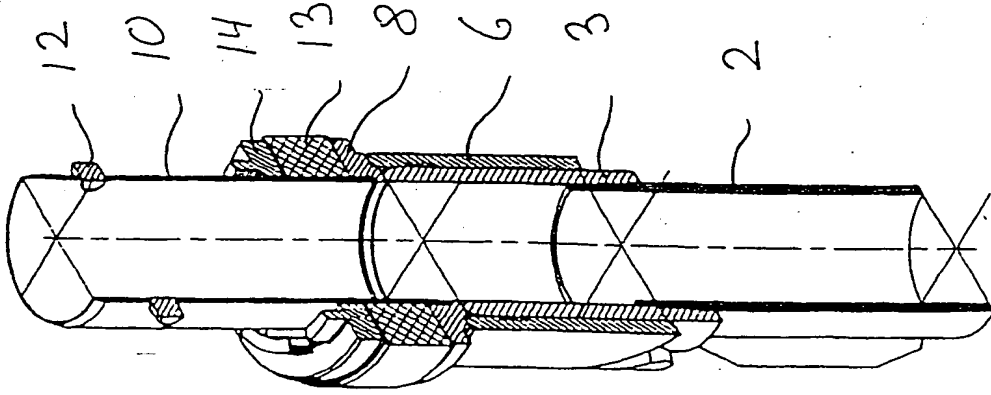


Fig. 6b

VI - VI
A-A

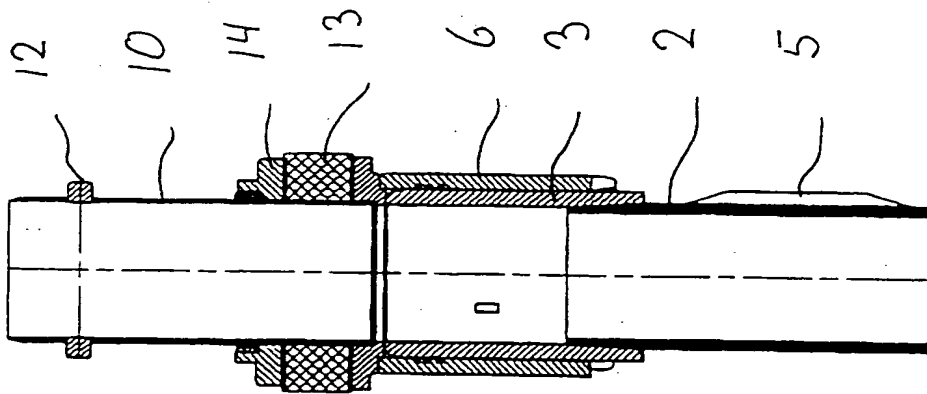


Fig. 6a

